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LAIRD SMAIL.

I HAVE often observed with regret the powerlessness of females over their own fate after marriage. They have much influence, no doubt, in many cases, and may either bring misery where there would otherwise be none, or avert much that would otherwise come. Yet there are instances where the tendencies of the husband are so decidedly evil, that no merit on the part of the wife may be of avail against them. Her very virtues, in many cases, only serve to make her misery the more certain and complete; and she who, by a more happy arrangement, might have formed the principal figure in a scene of the highest comfort and honour, is found in a short time to have been blighted and degraded by circumstances altogether independent of her own will. Once she has taken the irrevocable step of marriage, her lot is identified with that of another being, who may, voluntarily or involuntarily, drag her down to sorrow and infamy, without her being in the least able to stay their course. It falls in the power of some to make a choice in which there are few risks; but, on the other hand, how many are there who have not this privilege, and who almost necessarily encounter, in their union, a mere blind hazard!

From a very attentive observation, made upon a considerable number of marriages with the circumstances of which I was acquainted, I am inclined to believe that, even in the middle walks of life, one half of these alliances do not turn out well. It is almost incredible, till we observe extensively, from what a variety of circumstances marriages may prove unhappy; but it is found, in by far the majority of cases, that the husband is somehow or other the cause of the evil. Domestic felicity is seldom marred by the woman: it is her empire, and she is no more likely to destroy it, than the bird is to pull her own nest to pieces. She stands by home as a principle, and it is her nature to seek to render it as agreeable as possible to her husband. She has also a more intense sense than man, of the decencies of life—is more anxious to have the duties of religion properly observed—to have a creditable appearance before neighbours—in short, as she says, to have every thing right. Men—even sensible, well-educated men—are often rebels against many of the proprieties, but women very rarely. Women may in fact be described as the hereditary high priests and moralists of the world, the grand recipients and dispensers of piety and virtue among men. Hence do we often see husbands, who led a careless eccentric kind of life before marriage, tamed after it in a most surprising degree, obliged to give up all their roistering bachelor acquaintances, and regularly sent off to church every Sunday, with bibles in their pockets, even though the lady, from some indisposition, be unable to go herself. Many a flounder and struggle does he make, perhaps, before he confesses the power of the hook; but sooner or later she contrives to make him, as a Scotch wife would say, "just like other folk"—which is the great object of her endeavours. So happy a result, however, has a reference to little more than superficial manners, and is only here alluded to as proving the general disposition of the wife to conduct matters properly in her own department. Out of the luckless moiety of marriages, the evil too often arises from events, and peculiarities in her husband, altogether beyond her influence.

It would be easy for any one, after a little reflection, to relate numerous instances of women whose happiness had been ruined by an unfortunate union. A remarkable case, in humble life, once fell under my observation, and, at the hazard of bringing some trite in-

cidents and reflections before the notice of the reader, and perhaps offending him a little by homeliness of detail, I shall here give the particulars.

Nell Forsyth was in my young days a trig and rather good-looking lass, who acted as only servant to a small family in a country town, and was well known beyond the circle of her master's home for her discreet and steady character. Like all other lasses whatever, Nell had had sweethearts of various orders; but it did not happen that she came within the danger of matrimony with any of them, till about her thirtieth year. She was then courted by a man named Smail, who had recently inherited a little property, and, though of vulgar manners and appearance, was looked upon by individuals in Nell's rank of life as a rather eligible match. This man had not been remarkable in his early years for industry, or good conduct of any kind. While it was generally admitted that his prospects were such as to have entitled him to enter into society a little higher than that in which he had been reared by his parents, he coveted rather the distinction which his little patrimony of old houses gave him in the eyes of those who had no such advantages, and liked nothing so much as to sit smoking and drinking for whole evenings with low wretches, who, in addressing him, would use the term "laird," and for the sake of a free share in his base indulgences, did not scruple to applaud every thing he said as the height of wisdom. When it was understood that Laird Smail was to get Nell Forsyth, the general feeling was that Nell was a fortunate lass; but one or two, who reflected more deeply, expressed their dissent from that conclusion. Smail, they allowed, had almost enough to support him without work; but then his habits were not good; and if he should run in debt, and require to sell any part of his property, as was by no means unlikely, there was little reason to expect that he should be able to supply the deficiency by his labour. Nell, they thought, though apparently the humbler of the parties at present, was likely to be the soonest to complain of the bargain.

Nell, who in this alliance had rather yielded to the advices of a few ordinary-minded relations than acted from her own good sense, soon found that five or six old thatched cottages, producing a rent of from two to four pounds each, were but a poor compensation for the decent behaviour which was wanting in her husband. The very second evening of his married life he spent in a low hovel in the neighbourhood, with a few coarse companions, from whom he did not part till near midnight. It may be conceived with what feelings poor Nell saw the maudlin wretch enter the home which she had that night spent two hours in burnishing and arranging for his comfort. There are many erring natures which it is possible to correct, many uncultivated natures which may be improved, and a vast number which are neither particularly good nor particularly ill, and to which the wife may, without great difficulty, accommodate herself. But with a truly low and ungenerous nature, all the feminine merits on earth are of no avail. Such was Smail's. The man was utterly incapable of feeling that he was doing wrong; he could neither perceive nor appreciate the force of his wife's remonstrances; he neither cared for her love, nor for her anger. "Will you speak to me?" such was his answer to every rebuke, "you who had nothing, and whom I have made a lady! You are the last person on earth that should complain." He seemed to think that gratitude for his having married her, was the only sentiment she was entitled to entertain.

Not long after his marriage, the branch of manufacture in which Smail had been engaged, began to

decline, and he deemed it expedient to enter into trade. He therefore converted his property into about four hundred pounds of ready money, and set up a grocery shop and public-house. For this line of life his wife was well qualified; and if success had depended upon her alone, it would have been certain. Smail, however, marred all by his irregular and absurd habits. He only appeared in the shop, to give offence to customers, to consume, to break, and to spoil. Into every festive company he would intrude, whether the individuals might be above or beneath him; and all alike he displeased by his behaviour. It soon became almost the sole business of the wife to keep her husband from doing harm; and, notwithstanding all her exertions, much, it may well be believed, was done. He delighted in her occasional in-lyings, for then, without the least feeling for her situation, he would indulge for a week in unrestrained debauchery, while "the lass," the only surviving minister of good, would vainly endeavour to keep matters square in the shop, and at the same time pay some attention to her mistress. To every complaint, his only answer was, "What! isn't it all mine—all my property? Didn't I make you Mrs Smail, Nelly?" The monster had fixed the idea in his mind, that his half-dozen old houses, inherited from an industrious father, had given him a perpetual immunity from all labour, as well as all control; and nothing could convince him of the contrary. Even when ruin came, and the whole proceeds of "the property" were found dissipated, he had the hardihood to tell his forlorn wife that she was well off in having connected herself with a man so much superior to herself in station. He had been "the laird," he said, and nothing could divest him of the title, or her of the respectability of being his wife.

With the wrecks of their little stock, and some small assistance from Nelly's friends, they removed to a small village a few miles off, and commenced the same line of business in a humbler way. Smail was full of promises of well-doing. He was to work at whatever came in his way, while his wife should attend to the business. He would also make all her markets. As for his drinking any more, that was entirely out of the question. He had hitherto been led away solely by his acquaintances; and as he had none at the place where they were to set up, he would be quite free from temptation. In fact, taking every thing into account, they would be better now than ever. The place was on a much frequented road, and he should not wonder but they would do more business there than even in a town. The fellow had a sanguine way of looking at things, and a plausible, boasting way of speaking of them, which was very apt to impose on those who did not know him well. Nell was quite aware of his temperament, but nevertheless could not help encouraging a hope that poverty would work some change in him for the better. Whatever might have been her thoughts, she knew that there was no alternative. She already had four children, who, wanting her protection, would have wanted every thing; and for their sake she felt that she must still struggle on, let her husband behave as he might.

For a little while, Smail did seem a little steadier in his new situation. As soon, however, as the first difficulties were over, he grew as bad as ever. Old acquaintances found him out, and he was at no loss in forming new ones. Even the passing vagrant found a friend in Laird Smail. It was, by the way, one of his peculiarities, that he liked the company of vagrants. Under the pretence of studying men and manners, he would descend to the society of the most vicious, and many a person whom others would have passed by as an outcast wretch, he respected as "a man

who had seen something of the world," and would entertain gratuitously with the best he had. They often cheat me, he would say carelessly, but then it is always seeing life. The man was, upon the whole, more absurd than wicked, and his principal faults seemed to arise from a kind of intellectual imperfection, which prevented him from seeing his duty to his family and to the world. Even when his wife was working like a slave amidst a complication of household and mercantile duties almost sufficient to overturn her reason, he, who was sitting coolly all the time with his tankard, enjoying a newspaper or a friend, would remark, in reply to any complaint she might make, "Nelly, you know I am the head of the concern. I think for you, you know. You're a very active woman; but it would be all in vain if you had not some one to *plan* for you. You can sell; but it is I who buy, lass. I meet with the merchants, you know." "Ay," she would remark—for the poor woman was not above making a tart reply—"you like to get among the samples—fient else you're fit for." "Nelly," he would say quietly, "you are very wrong to disrespect the head of the concern. This gentleman here" [here he would turn to his crony, perhaps a poor travelling Irish labourer,] "this gentleman here will tell you that, without the head, the hands—that's yourself—are useless." "Tut, sit about till I put on the pot," she would say, "or, faith, the hands will come over the head wi' the ern tangs!"

Such violence on Nelly's part may seem derogatory to her character, and take away some of the sympathy which would otherwise be felt for her situation. If I were to pursue the usual practice in fictitious writing, I would represent her all submission and gentleness, while her husband was all wickedness. In the actual world, however, characters are invariably found composed of many various and perhaps hardly consistent properties. Nelly was a most worthy, respectable, assiduous woman, devoted to the interests of her children, and who executed every duty of life in a creditable manner; but her temper had been broken a good deal by her husband's conduct and its consequences—and no result could be more natural. A constant mild submission to a series of harrowing wrongs and troubles, was not to be expected of a woman of her education and habits.

The Smalls spent several years in this situation without making matters any better. Their debts grew larger, their family more numerous, the habits of the father more indolent and self-indulgent. Nelly's heart was almost broken. "Oh, ma'am," said she one day to a lady who took some interest in her circumstances, "I dare say, if it weren't for the bairns, I was just lie down at some dyke-side and die. Mony a time, when I gang to rest, I wish that I may never waken again; but yet when I do waken, and hear their little voices spunking up in the morning about me, this one for a piece, and that one for his claes, and another one, may be, gaun yoving and lauchin through the house wi' mere senselessness, I just get up and begin again, and think nae mair about it." They at length lost their licence, through the ill-will of a neighbouring gentleman, who had seen Small carrying the bag for a shooting customer, and enjoying the sport with too much of the appearance of a practised relish. Hereupon their creditors, finding there was to be no more traffic, seized upon their furniture and stock, and sold off the whole by auction, leaving them with seven helpless children to seek a new habitation. They took the course which is generally pursued by destitute and ruined people—they hid themselves and their shame in one of the dens of the neighbouring city. Small commenced labour at a public work, but soon tired and withdrew. The mother was then compelled to come forward once more as the breadwinner. By the recommendations of some individuals who knew her, she obtained employment in washing. She also got her eldest son, as yet a very tiny creature, hired as an errand-boy at a small salary, the whole of which he brought every week, and placed in his mother's lap. For another series of years she persevered in this course of life, suffering inconceivable hardships of almost every kind, and daily struggling, whether well or ill, through a quantity of hired labour and domestic drudgery, under which the strongest constitution might have been expected to sink. Small would occasionally work a little, but he invariably spent his earnings on the indulgence of his own base tastes. Nelly made many ingenious attempts to wile a little of his money from him, but seldom with any considerable success. She had instructed one of her children, who was a favourite with him, to watch his movements on the pay-day, and try to save a little from the general wreck. This child would follow him to all his haunts, and use every kind of expedient that could be devised, for bringing him home with a pocket not altogether exhausted. The little shivering creature was heard one night saying to him—and it was the pure language of nature—"Oh, father, get fou as fast as ye can, and come away, for mammy will be wearying for ye!" Nothing, however, could melt the

hardened heart of this man. His selfish and uncontrollable desire of exciting liquors had deadened every good feeling within him, if any such ever existed. He could, without the slightest sympathy, see his wife work sixteen hours a-day within a week of her confinement. If a shilling of his own gaining could have spared her the necessity of such exertion, it would not have been given—to the tavern it must go. She, on one occasion of exigency, was obliged to employ him on an errand for some medicine, which was necessary for herself; and, instead of hastening back with what was wanted, as it is to be hoped the most of husbands would have done, he spent the money on the gratification of his own base appetite, and did not re-appear till next day. Under every humiliation, and though living the life of a very dog, or worse, he would still talk loftily of his house, his wife, and his children; and still he kept up his visionary title of "the laird." He would take his seat as majestically at a meal, as if he had provided it himself; and if any thing of an irritating nature was said by his wife, he would, with one sweep of his arm, drive every article that stood upon the table into the fire. This he esteemed a grand discovery for the exaction of civility, and no consideration of the deplorable poverty of his household could prevent him on any occasion from putting it in practice.

One of the very few things which the unfortunate woman had saved from the last wreck of her household, was a hen, which she designated Peggy Walker, out of respect for the person who had given it to her. Peggy was a remarkably decent, orderly, motherly-looking hen, of uncommon size, and so very good a *layer* that for whole seasons she would produce one egg a-day, and on some occasions two. Even in the straitened purities of a low suburb, Peggy found it possible to pick up a livelihood: the neighbours, indeed, had a kind of respect for the creature. They knew of what service she was to Mrs Small, in enabling her to support her family, and not only would abstain from hurting or persecuting her, but would throw many crumbs in her way, which they could not well spare. It was seldom that Peggy Walker did not contribute a shilling in the fortnight to the poor family who owned her; and the value of a fortnightly shilling, in such a case, who can estimate! Many a time did Nelly acknowledge that, if it were not for "that dumb creature," she did not know what would come of her family; for it was almost the only source of income upon which she could depend.

The laird was one day on the ramble, as he called it, with some of those low abandoned acquaintances in whom he took so much delight. The party had exhausted all their pecuniary resources, but not their appetite for that base fluid upon which they fed their own destruction. Already they were a sixpence short of the reckoning, and till that was settled, the landlord told them peremptorily they could get no more. What was to be done? "I say, laird," quoth one of the wretches, "haven't you a fine chucky at home? What's to hinder you to throw its neck, and sell't in the market there? Ye'll get at least eighteen-pence for't. That wad answer finely." "What, Peggy Walker!" said Small, not relishing the idea much at first; "man, the gudewife wad never stand that—it wad break her very heart." "Gae wa," said the other; "aren't ye master? isn't the hen yours?" "Oh yes, every thing's mine," cried the tipsy fool; "Nelly must not get every thing her own way. Od, I'll do it." And away he went—seized the meritorious Peggy, as she was stalking in her usual quiet respectable manner up the close—and in half an hour rejoined his companions, having sacrificed, for another hour of infamous enjoyment, what would have helped, for years to come, to put bread into the mouths of his children.

The loss of Peggy Walker was a severe blow to Nelly, but it was nothing to another tragedy which soon after took place. During one of Small's rambles, and after he had been absent for rather more than a week, his favourite child, the youngest but one, was seized with a severe illness, under which he quickly sunk, notwithstanding all the exertions of the mother. This fair-haired child was the first that Nelly had ever lost, and, notwithstanding the distressing number of her family, she could not see him stretched out in the miserable bed where he had died, without the usual bitterness of a bereaved mother's grief. It was not her least distress, however, that her husband was absent, and would neither see his darling before the interment, nor render the assistance in that ceremony which was so nearly indispensable. A poor sick joiner, who lived next door, rose out of his bed to make a coffin, which he gave her upon credit—for he was poor. The gravedigger required his fee, but she contrived to obtain it. A sum would have also been necessary to hire a man to carry the infant to the grave; but this she could not furnish. She was therefore obliged, after dressing herself in something like mourning, to take the coffin in her apron, and, with fainting steps, proceed with it through the crowded streets of the city towards the place of sepulture. Many an eye turned with wonder to follow her, as she pursued her melancholy walk—for in Scotland women are never seen in funeral matters—but the bustle of a large city teaches the eye to treat every extraordinary thing with only a transient curiosity. No one interfered to help her, or to procure her help. She passed on with the coffin in her lap and the tear in her eye, and laid her child in a grave where

none was present, besides herself and the sexton, to do honour to the common form of humanity, as it was consigned to kindred dust. When the mournful duty was done, she was seen returning through the same crowded streets, bearing, amongst the figures of the gay and unreflecting, as sad a heart as ever beat in mortal bosom.

Three days after the burial, Small came home—quite sober, for a wonder—and had no sooner sat down than he called as usual for his darling son. "Where is the dear boy? Bring my sweet Harry," such were his exclamations; and the rest of the children stood aghast at what they saw and heard. "Dinna tak the name o' the deid, Johnie," said his wife at length; "your Harry is lying in the kirkyard, puir laumie, this three days past." Small, who at the same time saw confirmation of the words in the black ribbon she wore in her cap, and in the tear which was beginning to glisten in her eye, was struck speechless by the intelligence. He covered his face with his hands, and wept bitterly, while his wife, in as gentle terms as possible, related the circumstances of the child's death. From that day he was an altered man. He sat pining by the fireside, apparently without an aim in life, or a power of action, only now and then asking his eldest daughter to read "a chapter" to him—it is needless to say out of what book. He survived his child little more than a month, and truly was his death described by a neighbour as "a light dispensation."

When relieved from the oppression of her husband, Nelly became comparatively prosperous. By dint of incredible exertions, she gathered enough to buy a mangle, and furnish a room as a lodging for a single man; in both of which concerns she was successful to admiration. Her children, also, as they grew up, got into employment, and contributed to their own and her support. Nothing, however, can compensate the twenty prime years of her life, spent in utter misery, or repair the damage which sorrow and poverty have wrought upon her frame. She is evidently one of those beings—alas, how numberless are they!—who seem born only to the worst that life can give, who spend the whole of their days in bearing ills through and for others, and are unusually blest if they can only find a little quiet space at last, to enable them to prepare for another, and, it is to be hoped, a happier state of existence.

EDUCATION.

THIRD ARTICLE.

[The subjoined article is the earlier half of the second of Mr Combe's Lectures on Education, of which we have already laid the first in two divisions before our readers. Mr Combe has very obligingly accompanied his permission to reprint this portion of his lectures, by a revised copy for our use. To call the attention of our readers to the method, the sagacity, the force, of Mr Combe's arguments, would plainly be a superfluous task. In thus giving them a more extensive publicity, we are actuated by a desire of seeing physical knowledge established every where as a regular branch of education, while classical literature, as less useful, shall be less studied. It is necessary only further to mention, that the Lectures were never intended by Mr Combe to embrace a full treatise on the subject of education. They were limited to three, and formed only the concluding portion of his course on Phrenology. This is the reason why almost all the branches of education, such as religious instruction, female accomplishments, mathematics, &c. which are fully appreciated by the public, and liberally taught to the young, are merely enumerated, and not enlarged on; while such branches as appear to Mr Combe to be also important, but not to be practically taught, engage a larger portion of attention. Neither Mr Combe nor we desire to see science usurp the place of religion in the instruction of youth; but on the contrary, knowledge of the Creator's works is viewed as a safe and appropriate accompaniment of the study of his word. These three Lectures were published at the request of the directors of the Association in Edinburgh for Procuring Instruction in Useful and Entertaining Sciences, before which association they were delivered.]

The question naturally presents itself, What constitutes a good education? The answer will be found by attending to the distinction between means and an end. If an architect is employed to build a house, he first considers the locality, next prepares a plan, and then calls in the aid of practical workmen, to combine his materials into the proposed erection. To be able to produce a plan, characterised at once by taste, elegance, and commodious arrangement, the architect requires to have studied mathematics and drawing. These constitute the elementary knowledge by means of which he is enabled to invent a plan. But the design itself is only the means towards the main end, the erection of a house. The acquisition and subsequent combination of the materials according to the design, alone accomplish the object. Now, drawing and mathematics are admirable attainments viewed as means towards producing a splendid palace, a commodious bridge, or a stupendous aqueduct; but if they produce nothing *but themselves*, or if they produce plans merely pleasing to the fancy, and not applicable to purposes of utility, they must be viewed as mere ingenious recreations or elegant accomplishments. What drawing and mathematics are to practical house-building, languages, writing, and arithmetic, are to a knowledge of things, and to practical business. They are means of acquiring knowledge; and knowledge itself is only the material, by applying which, practically and skillfully, business may be transacted, and enjoyment procured. Indeed, I might go farther, and say that drawing and mathematics embody ideas; whereas language in itself, apart from its applications,

is a mere collection of arbitrary sounds. To limit the education of a man who is destined to act the part of a husband, father, and member of society, engaged in practical affairs, to reading, writing, accounts, and the dead languages, is worse than the project of arresting the education of the architect at drawing, mathematics, and designing, without teaching him knowledge of materials, their strength, durability, cost, and modes of arrangement. A young lady who can draw a very handsome cottage could not rear a fabric corresponding to it. She is not an architect, and the difference between her and an architect consists in this, that she is defective in all the practical knowledge, skill, and experience, which are indispensable to render her design an actual house. A scholar in Greek and Latin is not a man of business, for a similar reason. He is not instructed in that knowledge of affairs, and things that exist, the management of which constitutes practical business. As, however, the architect must begin by learning to draw, so the practical member of society must commence by studying the means for acquiring knowledge, and I proceed to inquire what these means are.

The English language, writing, and arithmetic, then, are important means of acquiring and communicating knowledge. They ought to be sedulously taught, and by the most approved methods. Algebra and pure mathematics also belong to the class of means. The former relates solely to numbers and their relations, the latter to portions of space and their proportions. The most profound skill in them is compatible with extensive ignorance concerning every object, topic, and relation, that does not essentially imply exact proportions of number and space. All languages, likewise, belong to the class of means. In preferring one to another, we ought to be guided by the principle of utility—that in which most knowledge is contained is most useful. For this reason, French, German, and Italian, appear to me more valuable acquisitions than Greek and Latin.

The second object of education is the attainment of knowledge itself.

If the season for obtaining real knowledge be dedicated to the study of languages, the individual enters on life in a state of qualification for practical business, similar to that of the lady for the practice of architecture, after having completed her studies in drawing. He is deficient in many acquisitions that would be substantially useful for the preservation of health and conducting of affairs. He knows nothing about the structure of his own body, and very little about the causes which support it in health or subject it to disease: he is very imperfectly informed concerning the constitution of his own mind, and the relations established between himself and other beings: he is not instructed in any science; knows nothing of the principles of trade; is profoundly ignorant of the laws of his country, which he is called on to obey and even to administer; and, in short, is sent into society with little other preparation than a stock of prejudices gathered from the nursery, and of vague imaginations about the greatness of Greece and Rome, the beauties of classical literature, and the vast superiority of learned pedantry over practical sense.

To discover the evils that arise from this misdirection of education, we have only to advert to the numerous cases of individuals who ruin their constitutions, and die in youth or middle age, not from the fury of ungovernable passions which knowledge could not subdue, but from sheer ignorance of the physical conditions necessary to health; or to the ruined fortunes and broken hearts clearly referable to the ignorance of individuals of their own incapacity for the business in which they have embarked—of the characters of those with whom they have connected themselves—of the natural laws which govern production, or of the civil laws which regulate the transactions of men in particular states; and to ask, how many of these calamities might have been avoided by instruction and by proper discipline of the mind in the fields of observation and reflection.

To understand what constitutes useful and practical knowledge, you are requested to bear in mind the principles which I laid down and illustrated in the first lecture—that every inanimate object and every living being has received a definite constitution from the Creator, in virtue of which it stands in one or other of two relations towards man: either its natural qualities are such as he may bend to the purposes of his own enjoyment, or they are too gigantic to acknowledge his control, and he must accommodate his conduct to their sway. Water may be pointed to as an example of the first class: man, as I formerly observed, may turn the roaring torrent from its course, ere it dashes over the mountain-cliff, and conduct it, as his humble slave, to his mill, where it may be made to grind his corn, weave his cloth, forge his iron, or spin his thread, according to the direction given to it by his skill; or he may inclose it in strong metallic boilers, by fire convert it into steam, and bend its powers to propel his ship, in the face of the stormy winds and waves, to any wished-for haven: or he may borrow from it wings with which to fly over field and meadow on the smooth lines of his artificial railway. But before he can command these high enjoyments, how minute and accurate must be his study of water and the laws by which it is governed, and of mechanical philosophy and its applications! and how vast, skilful, and complicated must be his com-

binations of the rude materials with which nature has furnished him!

Wind affords an instance of the powers which man cannot control, and to which he must accommodate his conduct. He cannot guide the air as he does the stream of water; but to his mill-house he may give a revolving top, so that let the wind blow from what point it listeth, his sails will spread their bosoms directly to the breeze. He cannot bid the gale blow gently or with violence, as his machinery may require, to crush into dust a load of flint, or revolve lightly in forcing the slender saw through the tapering pine: but he can regulate his canvass according to the force required, so that the wind, if impetuous, shall meet a contracted surface on which to expend its force; and, if more calm, shall be caught by a broad expanded sail. Man has no power over the direction of the wind on the ocean: but by the skilful construction of his vessel, the adaptation of his masts and sails, and the giant power of the helm, he can so accommodate his bark to its influence, that he can steer in every direction save that from which the wind directly blows; nay, by skill and perseverance, he can accomplish even this, and, by tacking, gain upon the wind. Here also, let us remark how much observation of things that exist, and how much skilful combination, and practical adaptation of the powers which man can wield to the nature and course of those which defy his control, must be put forth before this glorious triumph of his ingenuity can be accomplished.

These illustrations are of universal application. In common life we may require neither to forge, to weave, to steer, nor to spin; but we all require to prosecute some vocation of usefulness and duty, otherwise we exist in vain. Now, let us move in what circle we may, we are encompassed by the elements of nature, which minister to our health and enjoyment, or to our detriment and discomfort, according as we use them wisely or the reverse, according as we adapt our conduct to their real qualities, or run counter to their influence: We are surrounded by human beings, and are influenced by the great tides of public affairs; and without knowledge of external nature, and of the nature of man, his history, laws, and institutions, we shall be no more capable of acting well and wisely through life than the mariner of steering successfully without helm, compass, or chart.

Moral and religious instruction must continue to be acquired during life. Hitherto the great object of preachers has been to communicate this kind of knowledge, and I sincerely wish success to their efforts. I do not here enlarge on moral and religious education, because society is alive to its importance. To give full effect to that teaching, I consider a trained and enlightened intellect and disciplined moral sentiments to be indispensably necessary, and these can be attained only by combining secular with sacred knowledge. To attain useful knowledge of natural objects, and the laws of their action, we require to study chemistry, anatomy, natural history, and natural philosophy. These make us acquainted with existing nature, and ought to constitute important branches of education. For the industrious portions of the people, it is not necessary to teach them in minute detail. Elementary instruction by means of primary schools, and, at a later age, by popular lectures, elucidating the leading principles and applications of these sciences, would be of incalculable benefit. It is delightful to be able to record that a neighbouring nation—Prussia—has set a noble example to Europe on the subject of education. In Prussia,* as in Germany generally, it is obligatory on all parents to send their children to school from the age of seven to fourteen, beginning earlier if they choose; and the duty is enforced by penalties. Each parish is bound to support an elementary school; each considerable town a burgher school for the more advanced studies; each considerable district a gymnasium for classical studies; and each province has its university. The parish-school is supported by the parish, and for its management all the landholders and heads of families are formed into a union, which appoints a committee to inspect and watch over the school. The system of instruction is prescribed by authority, and is nearly uniform for the whole monarchy. It embraces, in the elementary schools, 1. Religion and morals; 2. The German tongue; 3. Elements of geometry and drawing; 4. Arithmetic, pure and applied; 5. The elements of physics, meaning chemistry and natural philosophy, general history, and the history of Prussia; 6. Singing; 7. Writing; 8. Gymnastic exercises; 9. "The more simple manual labours," by which seems to be meant the use of tools employed in the most common occupations, such as the spade, pick-axe, saw, plane, file, trowel, stone-chisel, &c. The burgher school embraces the same branches carried farther, with the addition of a little Latin, the study of which is not, however, universally enforced. The instruction is not gratuitous, except to the poor. The provision to be made by the parish embraces, 1. A salary to the schoolmaster, with a retired allowance for him in old age; 2. A schoolhouse, well aired and heated; 3. Books, maps, models for drawing, collections in natural history, gymnastic apparatus, &c.; 4. Aid to poor scholars. The fund is raised by contributions, levied on the inhabitants according to the amount of their property or the produce of their industry, and by moderate fees, which are not paid to the schoolmaster, but

to the parochial managers. There are cantonal courts, and inspectors, who control and inspect all the schools in a canton; others for departments, with a wider authority; others, with still more extensive powers, for the provinces; and, above all, there is the minister of public instruction. In all the courts, councils, or commissions, exercising authority over the schools of any class, there are a few of the clergy—Protestant and Catholic being admitted according as the scholars belong to the one or the other church; and great care is taken to prevent the slightest offence from being offered to the religious feelings of any party. The choice of the books in the elementary schools is left to the local committees. There are half-yearly examinations; and the boys leaving school obtain certificates of their capacity and their moral and religious dispositions, which must be produced when they go to the communion, or enter into apprenticeship or service. The Prussian plan embraces also what are of essential importance, schools for training persons to act as teachers. There are thirty-four of these seminaries, where, besides studying the different branches of knowledge to be taught, they learn also the art of instruction.

A similar system of education is pursued in the boarding-schools of Germany. The following letter, written by a young gentleman who is personally known to me, and who, after studying at the High School of Edinburgh, went to Cassel and Gottingen, is lively and instructive:—

"In Germany, as in England, boarding-schools are the principal seminaries of education, day-schools like those which we have in Edinburgh being seldom if ever to be met with. These boarding-schools are attended not only by the boys who reside with the teacher, but also by what are called day-boarders; and masters for drawing, dancing, music, and other ornamental and useful accomplishments, teach at stated hours, as in similar establishments in this country. There are in Germany no such institutions as our grammar-schools, where almost nothing but Latin is taught; and indeed no one thinks of learning Latin, except those who are intended for the learned professions, and absolutely require a knowledge of it. Thus, boys in general, instead of spending five or six years in a state of misery, are enabled to acquire an extensive stock of useful and practical information.

"In German boarding-schools, natural history is a prominent object of pursuit, and the boys are instructed in the outlines of zoology, ornithology, entomology, and mineralogy. This, I believe, is a branch of education never taught in seminaries of the same description in Britain; but it is devoured by the learners on the Continent with the utmost avidity. There the teacher is not an object of fear, but the friend of his pupils. He takes them, about once a fortnight, to visit some manufactory in the neighbourhood, where they are generally received with kindness, and are conveyed through the whole building by the owners, who seem to have pleasure in pointing out the uses of the various parts of the machinery, and in explaining to their juvenile visitors the different operations which are carried on. Suppose, for example, that an expedition is undertaken to a paper-mill: the boys begin their scrutiny by inspecting the rags in the condition in which they are first brought in; then they are made to remark the processes of cutting them, of forming the paste, of sizing the paper, &c., with the machinery by which all this is executed. On their return, they are required to write out an account of the manufactory, of the operations performed in it, and of the manufactured article.

"During the summer months, pedestrian excursions are undertaken, extending to a period of perhaps two, three, or four weeks. Every thing worthy of attention is pointed out to the boys as they go along; and deviations are made on all sides, for the purpose of inspecting every manufactory, old castle, and other remarkable object in the neighbourhood. Minerals, plants, and insects, are collected as they proceed; and thus they early begin to appreciate and enjoy the beauties of external nature. If they happen to be travelling in the mountainous districts of the Hartz, they descend into the mines, and see the methods of excavating the ore, working the shafts, and ventilating and draining the mine. Ascending again to the surface, they become acquainted with the machinery by which the minerals are brought up, the processes of separating the ore from the sulphur, and the silver from the lead, and the mode in which the former metal is coined into money.

"Having become familiar with these operations, the boys next, perhaps, visit the iron-works, and here a new scene of gratification is opened up to their faculties. The furnaces, the principles of the different kinds of bellows, the method of casting the iron and forming the moulds—every thing, in short, is presented to their senses, and fully expounded to them. In like manner they are taken to the salt-works, and manufactories of porcelain, glass, acids, alkalies, and other chemical bodies, with which that part of Germany abounds. If any mineral springs be in the neighbourhood, these are visited, and the nature and properties of the water explained. In short, no opportunity is neglected by which additions to their knowledge may be made. In this way, I may say, without exaggeration, they acquire, in the course of a single forenoon, a greater amount of useful, prac-

tical, and entertaining knowledge, than they could obtain in six months at a grammar-school. For my own part, at least, I learned more in one year at Cassel, than during the five preceding which were spent in Edinburgh. This knowledge, too, is of a kind that remains indelibly written on the memory, and that is often recalled, in after-life, with pleasure and satisfaction.

"These journeys not only have a beneficial effect on the mind, but also conduce, in no small degree, to the growth and consolidation of the body. They are performed by short and easy stages, so as not to occasion fatigue.

"On their return home, the boys write an account of their travels, in which they describe the nature of the country through which they have passed, and its various productions, minerals, and manufactures. This is corrected and improved by the teacher. The minerals and plants which have been collected, serve at school to illustrate the lessons. The boys also go through a regular course of study, and receive lessons on religion, geography, French, and the elements of geometry. They are taught also the elements of astronomy; not merely the abstract particulars generally given in courses of geography in this country, relative to the moon's distance, the diameter and period of revolution of the earth, and the like, but also the relative positions of the principal constellations. The figures of cubes, cones, octagons, pyramids, and other geometrical figures, are impressed upon the minds of the junior boys, by pieces of wood cut into the proper shapes. Latin is taught to those who particularly desire it. Poles are erected in the garden for gymnastics, and the boys receive every encouragement to take muscular exercise."

Knowledge of man himself, his mental endowments, his history, and his institutions, belongs to the class of useful knowledge. In addition to the sciences already mentioned, therefore, an useful education would embrace instruction in mental philosophy, geography, civil history, political economy, and religion. A taste or genius for poetry, music, painting, sculpture, or languages, is bestowed by nature on particular individuals, and these branches of knowledge ought to be taught to those who desire them. They are of great value as means of elevating and refining human nature; but unless there is in the mind a decided genius for them, they ought not to be made the great objects of education, nor the business of life. The fine arts, also, should be taught as enjoyments, and a relief for them encouraged; but in common minds, a considerable amount of moral and intellectual cultivation must precede their due appreciation. Further, as long as the present institutions of society exist, some knowledge of Greek and Latin is indispensable to young men who mean to pursue divinity, medicine, or law, as a profession; and classical literature, which I admit to be a refined study, may very properly be cultivated by individuals whose minds are fitted to take a pleasure in it, and who can spare the necessary time from other and more indispensable studies.

Suppose, then, knowledge to be obtained, we may inquire into its uses. The first use of knowledge is the preservation of health. This, although greatly overlooked in established systems of education, is of paramount importance. Life depends on it, and also the power of exercising with effect all the mental functions. There are two modes of instructing an individual in the preservation of health—the one informing him as a matter of fact concerning the conditions on which it depends, and admonishing him by way of precept to observe them; the other, by expounding to his intellect the constitution of his bodily frame, and teaching him the uses of its various parts, the abuses of them, the relations established between his constitution and external objects, such as food, air, water, heat, cold, &c., and the consequences of observance or neglect of these relations. The former method addresses the memory chiefly, the latter the judgment. The former comes home to the mind, enforced only by the authority of the teacher; the latter is felt to be an exposition of the system of creation, and deeply interests at once the intellect and affections. The former affords rules for particular cases; the latter general principles, which the mind can only apply in new emergencies.

Such instruction as is here recommended, implies an exposition of the principles of anatomy and physiology.

The next use of knowledge is to enable us to exercise the mental faculties themselves, so as to render them vigorous and vivacious, and to promote their enjoyment.

The wonderful effect of a change from inactivity to bustle and employment is well known in common life, and is explicable only on the principle of strengthening the mind by a due amount of exercise. In nine cases out of ten, a visit to a watering-place, or a journey through an interesting country, restores health more by giving healthy excitement to the mind than by the water swallowed, or the locomotion endured. And it is well known, that, under strong excitement, weak and delicate persons will not only exert double muscular force, but even prove superior to the effects of miasma and contagion, to which, when unexcited, they would have been the first victims. In the army, also, it is proverbial, that the time of fatigue and danger is not the time of disease. It is in the inactive and listless months of a campaign that crowds of pa-

tients pass to the hospitals. In both these cases, it is active exercise, giving strength to the mind, and, through it, healthy vigour to the body, which produces the effect.

The third use of knowledge is to enable us to discharge, with increased zeal and fidelity, all our social, moral, and religious duties. Now, education in real knowledge connects our sympathies with living beings and practical life; it stimulates us to action, and furnishes us not only with the means of planning useful occupation, but with the materials for executing our plans. It invigorates the moral and intellectual powers, renders them more susceptible of impressions from religious and moral truths, and tends to fit the whole mind for the successful practice of the precepts of Christianity.

The principles which I have hitherto advanced are applicable to all classes of human beings; but the chief objects of the present lectures are the education, 1st, Of the industrious portion of the community, including all who live by their labour and talents, and do not belong to the learned professions; and, 2dly, Of females of every rank, for whom no adequate means of instruction in useful knowledge are provided.

[These objects are specifically treated in the ensuing part of the lecture, which will appear in No. 115 of this work.]

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CAT.

THE cat belongs to a tribe of animals of a very ferocious character, called by naturalists *feline*, which comprehends the lion, the tiger, the lynx, and various other creatures of a nature apparently very different from this quiet domestic animal. The title *feline* is taken from the Latin name of the cat, *felis*, and simply because this is the most familiar specimen of the tribe. According to a very interesting account of the race, just published,* they are calculated expressly by nature for subsisting as beasts of prey. They are possessed of great muscular power, joined to great lightness and agility, having strong claws for seizing, and sharp teeth for tearing and devouring such creatures as fall into their clutches. The lion can, without the appearance of effort, strike down a man with one of its paws. Being designed to approach their prey in a stealthy manner, they have soft pads under their claws, which touch the ground gently: their eyes are calculated to make the most possible use of such light as they may have: and their whiskers, being fixed in lips full of delicate nerves, inform them of every thing that is near them as they prowl along their dusky paths. The nature of the tribe is essentially cruel. They kill far more animals, when numbers are in their power, than they have any use for, and even the tame fireside cat takes a pleasure in torturing its victim before devouring it.

A well-known creature, called the wild-cat, larger and of dusker colour than the tame one, exists in several countries, and naturalists generally represent the latter as descended from it. The author of the book just quoted is of opinion, however, that the domestic cat is a distinct species, originating in ancient Egypt, where no wild ones are found, but where the tame one was formerly held sacred, like the Ibis, and even honoured with mummification.† There are many traditional tales and ancient laws to prove the estimation in which cats were formerly held in our own country, at a time perhaps when they were much scarcer than now. In the tenth century, Hoel the Good, King of Wales, fixed the price of a blind kitten at one penny; and when it could see, and when proof could be given of its having caught a mouse, the price was raised to twopence; but after it had established its powers of mousing, its value was increased to fourpence, which was no small sum in those days. The domestic cat is now abundantly diffused in almost all civilised countries, and is every where found useful in keeping down the breeds of other domestic animals, which would otherwise be seriously mischievous. It is also esteemed by many individuals for its quiet social character.

"We have many varieties of colour," says Mr Rhind, "in the domestic cat: the principal of which are, a deep glossy black without a single white mark—a black and white variously arranged—a black, yellow, and white, as in the tortoise-shell cat, where the ground colour is white, and the black, or brown and yellow, beautifully intermixed with streaks or clouded spots—a pure white—a yellow and white—a dun colour, or tawny, either plain or with stripes of a deeper colour—a tabby, or grayish brown, with brown or black streaks—a slate-coloured, or blue grey (called the Chartreux cat) generally of a large size—a slate-coloured, with very long fur, especially on the neck and tail (the Persian cat)—a white, with long hair (called the Angora cat)—the red cat of Tobolsk, and the hanging-eared cat of China. Sir Stamford

* The Natural History of the Feline Species, by William Rhind, Esq.; forming volume second of the Miscellany of Natural History, edited by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder.

† In Anderson's Museum at Glasgow, there is a mummy cat, which probably perished three thousand years ago by some fireside on the banks of the Nile.

Raffles mentions a variety of the domestic cat in Java, which has a twisted or knobbed tail, and sometimes is entirely destitute of this appendage. A tailless cat, common in Cornwall and the Isle of Wight, is mentioned by Dr Leach. Shaw also notices a variety with pencilled or tufted ears like a lynx, which, he says, is rare, and which we have never seen. Of these varieties, the most singular are the Persian and Angora; the latter has sometimes one eye blue and the other yellow. We have seen some cats with double ears, consisting of miniature convolutions at the outer corner of the external auricle.

"In treating of the moral qualities of the cat, we are aware that we are touching on debatable ground. While some bestow upon poor puss all the epithets of treachery, cruelty, and ingratitude, others, finding in its disposition, kindness, gentleness, and playfulness, are warm in eulogies of their favourite. In fact, the character of the cat is judged of too much by comparison, and thus, like many persons in the world, its stock of really good qualities are thrown into the back ground, and all its bad propensities magnified. That the cat has not the sagacity, approaching almost to human reason, of the dog—that it has not his devotedness of affection, his entire self-control and patient submissiveness under the rebuke of his master—is not to be denied, nor, from its natural inherent habits, is it to be expected that it should have these qualities to the same extent. Neither can it be affirmed that the cat is in disposition to be estimated like the noble and patient horse, another of the chief and favourite companions of man. Yet puss is not only the affectionate sharer of the clean and quiet hearth of the lonely widow, but it will be found quietly reposing on the silken covered cushion in the boudoir of the more wealthy; and from the palace to the cottage it every where finds its patrons, to whom its gambols and its fawnings, the beauty and symmetry of its elegant figure, and its graceful motions, are all circumstances of recommendation. In fact, it is bad usage alone that calls forth the savage propensities of this feline domestic; with gentle and kind treatment, it can be as gentle, and kind, and insinuating, as any other animal. It is true, even in its most domestic state, it exhibits a native propensity for prey, and hence is derived its usefulness: though fed with the most delicate dainties, it will still prefer as a peculiar delicacy a mouse, caught by its own prowess and cunning, and it will revel in the quivering flesh of the yet gasping victim. Still nothing can exceed the affection of the cat to those who treat it kindly. This affection it expresses by rubbing its body close on the individual, and by the loud purring noise indicative of its satisfaction. It will not, however, bear to be crossed; and though it returns kindness by every expression in its power, it is also prompt to retaliate on the slightest opposition. Neither has it the perception of the dog, in desisting from any action when commanded to do so; it will persist in clawing food off one's plate, and has no hesitation in stealing whenever it can. Although the cat can be made to perform some actions at the command of its master, such as leaping, and other tricks, yet it does so always with reluctance, and has by no means the teachable and persevering disposition of the dog."

The ordinary habits of the cat are so well known that it is quite unnecessary to detail them. The creature is fond of heat, which seems favourable to the idea of its having been a native of Africa. It likes to bask on window-soles exposed to the sun, or on soft hearth-rugs before a glowing fire, and also to sink amidst the clothes of a bed in which any one is sleeping. Calculating on this peculiarity of the animal, it is said that the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Fourth, once laid a bet with Mr Charles James Fox, as they were proceeding home early on a summer morning, that he would meet more cats on one side of the Strand than his friend would encounter on the other. He accordingly assumed the sunny side, and, while Mr Fox hardly found one, the Prince met many, by which he gained the bet. The animal seems to have a pleasure in wandering by night, both within and without doors, which has given rise to an idea that it sees as well in the dark as in the light. In reality, as already hinted, its eyes are only constructed in such a manner as to see with less light than what suffices for the most of other animals. The male cat, like the male sheep, is a much softer animal than the female, and more good-natured; but the latter shows a remarkable degree of tenderness for her young. Her period of gestation is fifty-five days, and she produces from four to six at a time. Her care of her offspring is such as to interest every beholder. She tends the little blind creatures with the utmost solicitude and patience, is indefatigable in supplying them with food, and when any one is carried away to a distant part of the house—as boys will sometimes do, by way of trying her affection—she is sure to come, and, taking it up in her mouth, carries it off, and softly deposits it beside the rest. Her whole nature seems softened at this period, and she has been known, when deprived of her own young, to expend her maternal fondness and care with as much zeal upon young hares, and even upon pups, creatures belonging to a species with which she is proverbially at war. The kittens very soon become independent of the mother; but she generally takes care, before they leave her charge, to give them a little instruction in the art of catching mice, by bringing wounded ones for them to spring upon, and showing them how to watch mouse-holes

The kitten is a singularly playful creature, though all its movements seem to bear a kind of sportive reference to the art of catching a prey.

"In the manner of procuring its prey, the common cat resembles all the other members of the same great family. It will watch for hours, with the utmost eagerness and assiduity, the peeping of a mouse from its hiding-place, or the motions of a bird on the bough of a tree; and when the proper opportunity arrives, it pounces with one sudden spring on the unfortunate object. There is no sort of food that cats show a greater liking for than fish, and this has been matter of astonishment to many who are led to conceive that in a state of nature cats could not procure such food. It is a well-ascertained fact, however, that cats do actually take small fishes from shallow ponds and rivers. Many instances have been recorded of cats catching fish. 'Mr Moody of Jesmond, near Newcastle, had a cat, in 1829, which had been in his possession for some years, that caught fish with great assiduity, and frequently brought them home alive. Besides minnows and eels, she occasionally carried home pilchards, one of which, about six inches long, was found in her possession in August 1827. She also contrived to teach a neighbour's cat to fish, and the two have been seen together watching by the Uis for fish. At other times they have been seen at opposite sides of the river, not far from each other, on the look-out for their prey.' The following still more extraordinary circumstance of a cat fishing in the sea, appeared in the *Plymouth Journal*, June 1828:—'There is now at the battery, on the Devil's Point, a cat, which is an expert catcher of the finny tribe, being in the constant habit of diving into the sea, and bringing up the fish alive in her mouth, and depositing them in the guard-room, for the use of the soldiers. She is now seven years old, and has long been a useful caterer. It is supposed that her pursuit of the water-rats first taught her to venture into the water, to which it is well known puss has a natural aversion. She is as fond of the water as a Newfoundland dog, and takes her regular peregrinations along the rocks at its edge, looking out for her prey, ready to dive for them at a moment's notice.' We also recollect a cat who spent the greater part of her time on the banks of a stream, living on small fish, which she caught there; but she also, in the first instance, seemed to be attracted by the water-rats, whom she used to pursue into the water."

"In general, however, cats show a great disinclination to moisture, and take especial care to keep their feet dry. They are also extremely cleanly, and take much pains in brushing up their fur, especially about the face. Every one is aware that if a cat be taken into a dark place, and its back gently rubbed, vivid sparks of electricity will be elicited. These sparks will be stronger in proportion to the dryness of the air, and the fur of the animal. In fact, all animals, as well as every substance on the earth, possesses its portion of electric matter, and the reason of its being so visible in the case of the cat, is in consequence of the perfect dryness and soft silky nature of its fur. Cats, too, like many other animals, seem to be exceedingly sensitive to atmospheric changes; hence the cat has often been styled 'the old woman's weather-glass.' Cats, like all other animals of prey, sleep much during the day, and roam about at night. They prefer warm situations near the fire in winter, or basking opposite to the sun in summer. When highly pleased, the cat emits a sound well known by the term purring; this sound seems to be produced through the nostrils, and is probably the vibration of some membrane about the palate or lower part of the nostril; it is quite voluntary, and can be commanded at the pleasure of the animal. The hunting leopard purs in the same manner; but we are unable to say whether this power of expressing satisfaction be common to others of the cat tribe."

"The mew of the cat is by no means pleasing, and its nocturnal noises, and notes of love and war, are of the most harsh and grating description. Many persons have so singular an antipathy to cats, as to swoon away if one happens to be in the room with them. It is difficult to say whether this arises from any immediate odour of the animal, directly affecting the senses of such persons, or whether it be not merely the recollection of preconceived antipathies. Cats themselves seem to have some singular peculiarities of the sense of smelling. They have a dislike to many odours, while they are attracted by the scent of the common valerian root, with a pleasure almost amounting to fascination."

Mr Rhind has related several instances of extraordinary sense and ingenuity on the part of the cat, and we believe there are few persons who could not add to the list. The paternal grandfather of the present writer had a cat which followed him on his morning walks like a dog. Another relation, who resided in the Old Town of Edinburgh, possessed two individuals of the species, each of which performed very remarkable feats. One generally haunted the nursery, where there was a bed approaching very near to the door. When the animal wished to leave the room, it mounted the bed, and, leaning forward as far as possible, struck down the latch with its paw, so as to make the door fall open. For a long time, the family was occasionally annoyed at night by the sound of the knocker, and when the servants went to the door, to see who was there, no one appeared. It was suspected that some idle neighbour had resolved to amuse himself at their

expense, and the master of the house at length resolved to watch for the sound, and, pouncing out upon the enemy, visit him with summary punishment. This was done. No sooner had the knocker sounded than out burst the enraged citizen, expecting to seize at least one offender. To his astonishment, nobody was there. He watched another night, and the same result ensued. On a third night, he took a light, and what was his surprise, on opening the door, to find his cat hanging on the knocker! It was evident that the animal was in the habit of springing upon that object, and causing it to operate, in order to gain admission on her return from her nocturnal rambles.

Cats are remarked to be more liable to form attachments to places than to persons. When a family removes, it is often found difficult to make their cat fix herself in the new house. Even though carried in a bag, and to a distance of many miles, they are apt to find their way back, and become contented vassals to the new tenants of their former abode. A cat has been known even to cross the Frith of Forth—by what means never could be conceived—in order to regain her wonted habitation.

THE PARKS OF LONDON.

THE Parks, which form one of the most beautiful features of the metropolis, are situated chiefly in a series from the back of Whitehall Street, in a westerly and northerly direction, and are thus blended only with the fashionable end of the town. The most ancient of these open grounds is St James's Park, so called from St James's Palace being situated close upon its northern side. You may enter this park from Whitehall Street by the passage in the edifice of the Horse Guards, and from thence saunter for miles among those beautiful grounds now to be noticed. The history of St James's Park is soon told. When Henry the Eighth came to the throne, it was a marshy waste, and most probably formed part of the Thames which surrounded Thorney Island. Henry drained the waters into a canal, enclosed many acres of ground, took down an ancient hospital dedicated to St James, and built on its site the palace now called St James's. Charles the Second improved the grounds by planting the avenues of lime-trees on the northern and southern sides of the park, and forming the Mall, which was a hollowed, smooth, gravelled space, half a mile long, skirted with a wooden border for playing at balls. The southern avenue was appropriated to aviaries: hence it derived the appellation Birdcage Walk. The centre of the Park was occupied by canals and ponds for aquatic birds. William the Third granted access to the public for their recreation, the Park being nearly a mile and a half in circumference, and the avenues forming delightful shady promenades. In the centre is a fine piece of water interspersed with islands, and enriched with swans and various water-fowl, with shrubs and flowers decorating its variegated borders. On either side are spacious lawns, dotted with lofty trees and flowering shrubs. Groups of persons here amuse themselves on the grass, on the walks, or seated on the chairs, enjoying their book and the scenery. The lawns are separated from the avenues by iron railings, and at each entrance is a keeper's lodge. There are seven or eight entrances to the Park, the king's guard doing duty at each, day and night.

At the eastern side of St James's Park is a large gravelled space called the Parade, on which, about ten o'clock every morning, the body-guards required for the day are mustered, about seven or eight hundred men. The regimental bands perform music of the first order in a style not to be surpassed; the attention of a thousand persons is often rivetted by the harmonious delicacy and grandeur of its execution. The guards may well be proud of their musicians. The ceremony of saluting the colours and passing in review before the commanding officer, follows; after which, the whole march off to martial music, which, reverberating from the surrounding buildings, increases the grandeur of its effect.

This Parade is before the Park-front of the Horse Guards, the Treasury, and other edifices built of stone, all commanding a view of the gardens and the New Palace, at the western extremity of the Park. At the southern side of the Parade is placed a huge mortar, brought from Spain; and at the northern end a piece of Turkish ordnance, of great length, brought from Alexandria, in Egypt. Both these tremendous and sanguinary implements of war are mounted on carriages or bases of home construction, displaying emblematical or allegorical allusions to the places whence they came.

A little farther north of the Parade, is a noble flight of steps, giving an entrance to the Park from Waterloo Place, constructed by order of his present Majesty; these steps are surmounted by a lofty column, which occupies the spot where lately stood Carlton Palace, the favourite residence of George the Fourth. The buildings near this, which overlook the Park, are lofty and elegant. Farther on the Mall, or Avenue, is St James's Palace, at sight of which foreigners exclaim, "the English hospitals are palaces,

and their royal residences are hovels." There is certainly no exterior to determine this as the abode of a monarch; within, however, it is superb and spacious; the levees and drawing-rooms of their Majesties are held here in great splendour. On court days, the guards in their rich equipments, the yeomen in their ancient costume, the attendants on the ceremony, the splendid equipages of the nobility, and the crowds of elegantly-dressed spectators, render St James's Palace a scene of gorgeous magnificence.

The western end of St James's Park is occupied by an extensive stone edifice, on the site of old Buckingham House, called the New Palace; the centre is spacious and grand; the wings project on either side so boldly as to form three sides of a quadrangle; on the extremities are colonnades, giving a noble expanse to the building. The basement is of the Doric; above is the Corinthian order; and the summits are adorned with statues. In the front of the palace is the Waterloo triumphal arch, which, with an area of great extent, is surrounded by richly-ornamented iron railings.

Green Park is north of the New Palace, is part of the grounds enclosed by Henry the Eighth, and forms an angle, the western side of which is occupied by very beautiful mansions of the nobility, situated within shrubberies. The north side is bounded by Piccadilly, a line of lofty houses, among which are many town residences of the nobility. The other line of the angle is a broad road, called Constitution Hill, connecting St James's Park with Hyde Park Corner. The whole of Green Park is surrounded by iron railings, and is rendered interesting from its inequality of grassy surface, which rises considerably on the northern side, and to a promenade round a large basin of water, which, with walks in other parts of the Park, offer a pleasing and healthful recreation to the inhabitants of the metropolis. From the highest ground there is a charming prospect of the New Palace, St James's Park with its ornamental grounds, over which Westminster Abbey majestically rises, accompanied by the Gothic turrets of other buildings, beyond which are the Kentish Hills, thickly studded with villas and diversified with groves.

Green Park is separated from Hyde Park on the north-west by the line of road leading into Piccadilly, and which, during most part of the day, exhibits an extraordinary thoroughfare of vehicles, horses, and pedestrians. The view eastward along Piccadilly gives an idea of the wealth and grandeur of the metropolis, which will not be soon effaced. The main entrance to Hyde Park, which is opposite Green Park, exhibits great elegance in architectural ornament.

Hyde Park is part of the ancient manor of Hida, which belonged to the monastery of St Peter, at Westminster, till Henry the Eighth appropriated it differently. Its extent is about 400 acres, part of which is considerably elevated. The whole is intersected with noble roads, lawns with luxuriant trees, planted singly or in groups, presenting beautiful examples of diversified prospects. At the south-east corner, the entrance from Piccadilly, on an elevated pedestal, stands a colossal statue of Achilles, cast from the cannon taken at the battles of Salamanca and Waterloo, weighing thirty tons, and "erected to the Duke of Wellington and his companions in arms, by their countrywomen."

The great sheet of water called the Serpentine River enriches the scenery of Hyde Park. At its western extremity is a stone bridge of five large and two smaller arches, erected in 1826; it separates the Park from the gardens of Kensington Palace, a spot possessing all the beauties of flower, lawn, and grove, and open to the public. On the level space of Hyde Park, troops of the line are occasionally reviewed. The great road through the Park to Kensington is denominated Rotten Row, one of the most fashionable resorts for equestrians to sport their high-bred horses. Other roads display countless elegant equipages of the nobility, gentry, and others; while the footpaths, which are railed off from the roads, are crowded with the well-dressed inhabitants of London, enjoying the salubrity of the air and the gaiety of the scene, more particularly between two and five on a Sunday afternoon.

There are five entrances open from early morn till nine at night. No stages nor hackney-coaches are permitted within the gates of Hyde Park.

Regent's Park is situated considerably apart, in a northerly direction, from the preceding grounds, and consists of a circular enclosure of about 450 acres, which are laid out with great attention to landscape gardening; its centre is enriched with lakes, plantations, shrubberies, and eight beautiful villas. The Park is surrounded by extensive ranges of buildings, forming splendid terraces, variously designated, and all decorated with sculpture in agreement with their respective orders of architecture; producing an effect of beauty and grandeur rarely witnessed. At the south end of the Park, the Coliseum stands conspicuous, with its immense Doric portico and circular roof, rising from a polygon of sixteen faces, occupying an area of 400 feet. All these edifices are constructed of brick, with facings and embellishments of Portland cement.

On the border of the Park is the celebrated exhibition called the Diorama, which consists of painted representations of landscapes, or buildings, on particular parts of the scene; illuminations of different

hues are so judiciously cast as to produce a perfect resemblance to nature.

At the northern extremity of the Park are the Zoological Gardens, established in 1826. It affords to a highly gratified public the opportunity to inspect the works of nature under advantages heretofore unknown. The grounds are tastefully laid out in flower-beds and walks, which lead to the enclosures, or cages, of an extensive collection of beasts and birds, each labelled with its scientific and common name. Every department is so well arranged, and all so judiciously constructed, that the animals may be inspected with safety and satisfaction. An order signed by a member of the society is necessary to obtain admission; one shilling, each person, is taken at the gate.

It need scarcely be added, that these delightful walks in the different Parks are enjoyed by the public with the greatest expressions of satisfaction.

SCOTTISH STREAMS.

THE SPEY.

THE Spey is one of the principal rivers of Scotland, but is celebrated not so much for its magnitude as the rapidity of its course. It rises from a small lake called Loch Spey, on the confines of Badenoch and Glenroy, Inverness-shire, and falls into the Moray Firth. In point of magnitude, it has been allowed to follow the Tay, and, in beauty, the Earn, though, from its rapid course through chiefly a Highland country, it is of no avail whatever for navigation; and thus, except for its fisheries, it is among the least useful of all the larger Scottish rivers.

Descending at first in an easterly direction from Loch Spey, in the midst of wild Highland scenery, the Spey soon takes its north-easterly course, assuming rapidly the form of a river, from its reception of tributaries on both sides. Among these may be enumerated the Markie and Calder on the north, and the Mashie, Truim, and Tromie, on the south. It is next joined by the Feshie at Invereshie, by the Drurie Water at Rothiemurchus, by the Nethy near Abernethy, by the Dulsain from the north, opposite Abernethy, by the Avon at Inveravon, by the Fiddich Water between Aberlour and Rothes, and by a great variety of lesser streams, through the whole of its course.

The general aspect of the country during the first twenty miles of the river's course, is upon the whole bleak and barren; the soil in many places is good, but subject to early frosts, which frequently occur in July and August, and in one night blast all the crops. Eighteen miles from the source of the Spey is a bridge, by which the Highland road crosses from Inverness to Perth. On approaching the village of Kingussie, the country becomes more open, and assumes a fertile appearance, and, instead of the dusky heath, the eye is refreshed with the view of verdant meadows, which extend along the banks of the river for several miles; these afford a most luxuriant pasturage, but not unfrequently the whole of it is destroyed by the river overflowing its banks, which it often does, owing to the heavy falls of rain on the neighbouring mountains. Three miles below Kingussie, and about a mile from the north side of the river, stands the beautiful mansion of Belleville, the residence of the family of Macpherson, translator of Ossian, who, it may be mentioned, was born at Kingussie. Three miles farther down, the river expands into a beautiful lake, called Loch Inch, about two miles long and one broad, the sides of which are clothed with birch and hazel. This lake abounds with salmon, trout, pike, and char, of which last immense numbers are often taken by means of nets—occasionally fourteen dozen of these have been caught at a single haul. As the river leaves the lake, and recovers its natural dimensions, it flows through a country varying but little in appearance, till it approaches to Kinrara, a hunting-seat belonging to the Duke of Gordon, beautifully situated on a rising ground on the north side of the river, with a high rock rising abruptly and romantically behind it. On the top of this rock is a monument erected in commemoration of the battle of Waterloo. A little to the west of Kinrara House, in a beautiful sequestered situation, is the burial-place of the late Duchess of Gordon, who fixed upon it for that purpose many years before her death. On the opposite side of the river, about a mile farther on, is the Doune of Rothiemurchus, the property of Sir J. P. Grant, Calcutta. The scenery here is wild and varied. From the river side is seen a beautiful stripe of country, in an excellent state of cultivation, while, in the distance, rise the Gramplians, towering in majestic grandeur, their bases clothed with forests of dark waving pines, and their

summits denying sustenance to the slightest particle of vegetation.

The forests of Rothiemurchus supply the markets with a considerable quantity of fir wood, which, in point of durability and workmanship, is scarcely surpassed. The wood is brought from the forest by floating it down the Drurie, to the place where it joins the Spey, and thence in rafts along the principal river. The time required to float it from the place of its growth to Speymouth seldom exceeds twenty-four hours, though the distance is fully fifty miles. About a mile and a half below the junction of the Drurie, and on the same side, is a wide barren moor, which is pointed out as being the scene of a deadly conflict between two rival clans, viz., the Shaws and the Cummings, the latter of whom were totally defeated: not a man escaped the carnage. Tradition says they were all buried in one hollow, by the way-side, which, to this day, is called "Lag-na-Cuimeanach," or the "Cummings' Hollow." Broken swords and other warlike weapons are sometimes found in the vicinity, to vouch for the authenticity of the tradition.

The river now approaches that part of the country where, on its south bank, lies the barony of Kincairn, the native place of John Roy Stuart, who commanded a regiment in the Highland army in the year 1745, and was distinguished as a brave and sensible officer. His memory is revered in this part of the country; and the inhabitants talk of him as a remarkably athletic man, and an excellent poet. Most of his songs are still preserved, though almost the whole of them are in the Gaelic language. After the battle of Culloden, it was remarked of John Roy, by some of the English troops, "that, had the followers of the prince but half the activity of the red man with the broad bonnet and small hand, Culloden would have been decided in a different manner."

The river now enters into the county of Moray. This part of the country is called Strathpey, so well known for its music of the same name, and excellent reel-dancers. It is the property of Lord Seafield, and is now under a highly improved system of agriculture.

Seven miles below the Nethy, is a bridge across the Spey, which opens a communication between the country on either side; about a mile north of the bridge is the village of Granton, where there is an hospital, in which a number of orphan boys and girls receive food and clothing, and a good education. It now flows with increasing rapidity through a part of the country which of late years has been much beautified by numerous plantations. The Haughs of Cromdale, the scene of a skirmish which terminated Dundee's rebellion, and which is celebrated in a popular ballad, are on the south bank. The river here nearly forms a semicircle, from which Cromdale derives its name, signifying the "Crooked Dale." In the churchyard of Cromdale is a venerable beech tree of great antiquity; its branches are of such extent that it is capable of overshadowing from 1200 to 1600 people. On the opposite side, and two miles distant, is Castle Grant, the family mansion of the Earl of Seafield. It is a very ancient building, but of late years has undergone a thorough repair, and is quite modernised. In the castle is an extensive armoury, where there are to be seen specimens of the most rare and ancient armour.

A little way below Granton, the country begins to change its aspect; the hills gradually diminish, the scenery is less bold, and the traveller fancies himself on the point of leaving the Highlands. It may be mentioned, that a small rivulet, which flows into the Spey a few miles below Cromdale, makes a complete separation between the people who speak the English and Gaelic languages. On the west side of this stream, Gaelic is universally spoken; while on the opposite side, not a word of the language is understood: the distance between these two classes of people cannot exceed one hundred yards. Two miles farther down, at Inveravon, is Ballindalloch, an elegant mansion, the property of George M^rPherson Grant, Esq. The landscape, without possessing the wildness of Highland scenery, is yet remarkably beautiful, and the soil is rich, and yields excellent crops. The river now flows in a wider channel, which consequently diminishes its depth. As in all level countries, there is now a sameness in the landscape, to attempt to describe which would only be uttering useless repetitions.

Six miles below Ballindalloch, is the village of Aberlour; here, on either side of the water, are a number of gentlemen's residences; and about two miles farther on, is an elegant bridge upon the river, consisting of one arch, and entirely formed of cast metal. The scenery now has nothing either wild or romantic in it; but every one must be struck with the beauty and verdure of the level haughs along either bank. Three miles below, on the north bank, is the village of Rothes; and on the opposite bank, on an eminence, is the beautiful house of Arddilly. Four miles below this, is an elegant suspension-bridge, built shortly after the great floods in 1829; it opens a direct and short communication from Boharm to Elgin. The river now rapidly approaches its estuary. It passes the village of Fochabers on the south or right bank, where there is another splendid bridge of freestone. It was built at an immense expense by the late Duke of Gordon. It received considerable damage during the floods in 1829, but has since been thoroughly repaired. Near this is situated Gordon Castle, the residence of his Grace the Duke of Gordon, the most magnificent edifice north of the Tay. A few years ago, it suffered considerably

from fire, but it has been since rebuilt. The grounds are laid out with exquisite taste; the woods around the castle are of great extent and antiquity, and the parks are supplied with abundance of deer and other game. Both nature and art have combined to render this a place of princely magnificence. Three miles below this, on the north bank of the river, is the village of Garmouth, where the Spey discharges itself into the Moray Firth. As a seaport, it is quite insignificant, which may be in a great degree ascribed to there not being a sufficient depth of water to form a proper harbour. King Charles the Second landed here in 1650, when about to attempt the recovery of his crown by means of the Scotch Covenanters.

The fisheries of the Spey are very valuable. A fishing company pays an annual rent of L.8000. The number of salmon taken is very great, and the whole are sent to the London market, both in a fresh and cured state. Notwithstanding all the precautions used in securing the fish at the mouth of the river, the salmon contrive to pass, and force their way to the very source of the stream, and afford the angler many an hour's pleasant sport.

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES.

LADY JANE GREY.

LADY JANE GREY, born in 1537, was the eldest daughter of Henry Grey, Marquis of Dorset,* by his wife Lady Frances Brandon, the daughter of Mary Tudor, youngest sister of Henry the Eighth. Lady Jane thus inherited the pretensions of a junior branch of the royal family of England, and, failing the descendants of Henry the Eighth and his elder sister Margaret of Scotland, would have been the rightful heir to the crown.

She was reared at the country seat of her parents, apparently without any thought of ever being called to fill a throne, for which there were many heirs nearer in title than herself. She is described as having been beyond measure lovely: her features were beautifully regular, and her large and mild eyes were the reflection of a pure and energetic soul, though peaceful and unambitious. She was chiefly remarkable, however, for the extraordinary accomplishments of her mind. Roger Ascham, the preceptor of her cousin Queen Elizabeth, who knew her intimately, says, "she possesses good manners, prudence, and a love of labour; she has every talent, without the least weakness of her sex; she speaks French and Italian as well as she does English; she writes readily, and with propriety; she has more than once, if you will believe me, spoken Greek to me. Before I went into Germany," continues this celebrated scholar, "I came to Brodgate, in Leicestershire, to take my leave of that noble Lady Jane Grey, to whom I was exceeding much beholden. Her parents, the duke and duchess, with all the household, gentlemen and gentlewomen, were hunting in the park. But I found her in her chamber, reading *Phædon Platonis*, in Greek, with as much delight as some gentlemen would read a merrie tale in Boccace. After salutation and duty done, with some other talk, I asked her why she would lose such pastime in the park. Smiling, she answered me, 'I was all their sport in the park is but a shadow to that pleasure that I find in Plato. Alas, good folk, they never felt what true pleasure meant.' 'And how came you, madam,' quoth I, 'to this deep knowledge of pleasure? and what did chiefly allure you into it, seeing not many women, but very few men, have attained therunto?' 'I will tell you,' quoth she, 'and tell you a truth, which perchance you will marvel at. One of the greatest benefits that ever God gave me is, that he sent me so sharp and severe parents, and so gentle a schoolmaster. In presence of either father or mother, whether I speak, keep silence, sit, stand, or go, eat, drink, be merry or sad, be sewing, playing, dancing, or doing any thing else, I must do it, as it were, in such weight, measure, and number, even as perfectly as God made the world, or else I am so sharply taunted, so cruelly threatened, yea sometimes with pinches, nips, and other ways, which I will not name for the honour I bear them, so without measure misordered, that I think myself in hell, till time come that I must go to Mr Elmer, who teacheth me so gently, so pleasantly, with such fair allurements to learning, that I think all the time nothing while I am with him; and when I am called from him, I fall a-weeping, because whatsoever I do else but learning is full of grief, trouble, fear, and whole mauling unto me. And thus my book hath been so much my pleasure, that, in respect of it, all others are but trifles and troubles unto me!'"

Lady Jane Grey received part of her education with Edward the Sixth, who was of the same age with herself, but, though a very promising youth, was remarked to make a less rapid progress than his cousin. She also imbibed, with him, the warmest attachment

* Latterly created Duke of Suffolk.

to the reformed religion, then recently introduced into England. In the year 1553, the health of the young king began to decline, and men's thoughts began to be turned upon the succession. The next heir was his elder sister Mary, whose zeal, however, for the Catholic religion, inclined Edward to listen to the counsel of his chief minister, the Duke of Northumberland, for a change in the destination of the crown. Both Mary and the second sister Elizabeth had been at one time pronounced illegitimate by act of parliament; and though their father had reassigned them their proper rank in his will, there was some colour of law for their exclusion. With regard to Mary of Scotland, who was a Catholic and an alien, the question does not seem to have ever been entertained. Northumberland, seeing the possibility of setting aside these claimants, procured a match to be accomplished, May 1553, between Lady Jane Grey and his fourth son Lord Guilford Dudley—an alliance which seemed to promise his own continuance for a considerable time at the head of affairs, in the event of the death of the king.

The ambition of this able but unprincipled statesman was successful in the first instance. The dying king, wrought upon by his fears for the stability of the Protestant religion, made a will excluding his two sisters, and settling the crown upon Lady Jane Grey. On the 6th of July, the king died, and Northumberland, with some other lords, proceeded, on the 9th, to Sion House, where Lady Jane was residing, to salute her as queen. The unfortunate young lady, who had not yet completed her sixteenth year, and from her situation could not be considered as a free agent, heard the intelligence with profound grief and alarm, inasmuch as to fall upon the ground in the presence of those proud nobles who had come to bend their knees before her. In vain did she, with tears in her eyes, entreat her father-in-law to permit her to remain in that privacy which she loved. The fulfilment of the ambitious views of two great houses was not to be balked by the timidity, or even by the reason, of a young girl, over whom they possessed all that authority of the affections, compared with which that very sovereignty which they acknowledged in her was as nothing. From a mere sentiment of duty, she permitted herself to be considered as queen, and accompanied her distinguished relatives to the Tower, which, according to custom, was for some time to be her palace.

The circumstances favourable to her continuance in power were the possession by her father-in-law of the seat and powers of government, with the command of the ordinary forces, her own known attachment to the Protestant faith, and the respect paid to the will of the late king. The unfavourable circumstances were the very general prepossession in favour of the descent of the crown to the natural heir, the unpopularity of Northumberland, and the zeal of the Catholics in favour of Mary, while her own Protestant friends were rendered lukewarm by their suspicions of the sincerity of her father-in-law. Northumberland had, immediately before the death of the king, sent for the princesses Mary and Elizabeth, under the pretence of a desire of their brother to see them, but in reality with a view to make them his prisoners. He even concealed the death of the king for two days in the hope of their arriving. Mary, however, when within a few hours' journey of the metropolis, was apprised of the decease of her brother by a secret friend, and, taking alarm at the absence of official intelligence, withdrew into Suffolk, where she was speedily surrounded by a considerable army. To meet the twelve thousand men with whom she approached London, Northumberland could only bring out half that number. During his absence, an insurrection took place in the capital, and the Duke of Suffolk, the father of the young queen, was obliged to give up the Tower to the friends of Mary. He caused the ceremonial of royalty to cease, and its ensigns to be displaced in the apartment of his daughter, who, when she was exhorted by him to bear her fall with fortitude, answered him with modest composure, "This is a more welcome summons than that which forced me against my will to an elevation to which I am not entitled, and for which I am not qualified. In obedience to you, my lord, and to my mother, I did violence to myself: the present is my own act, and I willingly resign." The next day she returned to her retirement in the monastery of Sion. She reigned ten days, and was called "a twelfth-day queen" by some paltry buffoon who could look on the misfortunes of the good as the subject of a sorry jest.* Northumberland, being pressed by the superior forces of Mary, found no alternative but to proclaim his enemy as queen, in place of his daughter-in-law. He was immediately taken into custody, tried for high treason, and beheaded.

One of the first uses made by Mary of her authority was to take Jane and her relations into custody. The unfortunate young lady was carried back to the Tower, lately her palace, and now to be her prison and the scene of her death. It is not impossible that Mary, bigoted and cruel as she was, might have ultimately forgiven her young kinswoman for an usurpation so evidently involuntary. In the autumn, however, the Duke of Suffolk, who had been pardoned, was so imprudent as to join an insurrection by which Mary's throne was violently shaken. Exasperated by

this circumstance, she ordered Lady Jane and her husband to be tried (Nov. 3) for high treason. They were condemned, without a time being fixed for the execution. The queen at length determined to remove one whose pretensions were so liable to become a matter of contention. On the 8th day of February 1554,* she signed a warrant for the execution of "Guilford Dudley and his wife"—for such was the description by which they were distinguished at a moment when courtesy wears its ugliest aspect. On the morning of the 12th, he was led to execution on Tower Hill. Lord Guilford Dudley had requested an interview with his beloved Jane. She, from a fear that it might unfit both for the scene through which they were to pass, declined it. She saw him go through the gate of the Tower towards the scaffold; and soon afterwards she chanced to look from the same window at his bleeding carcase, imperfectly covered, in the cart which bore it back. Feckenham, abbot of Westminster, had endeavoured to convert her to the Catholic faith. He was acute, eloquent, and of a tender nature; but he made no impression on her considerate and steady belief. She behaved to him with such calmness and sweetness, that he had obtained for her a day's respite. So much meekness has seldom been so pure from lukewarmness. She wrote a letter to Harding on his apostasy, couched in ardent and even vehement language, partly because she doubted his sincerity. Never did affection breathe itself in language more beautiful than in her dying letter to her father, in which she says, "My guiltless blood may cry before the Lord, Mercy to the innocent!" A Greek letter to her sister, Lady Catherine, written on a blank leaf of a Greek Testament, is needless as another proof of those accomplishments which astonished the learned of Europe, but admirable as a token that neither grief nor danger could ruffle her thoughts, nor lower the sublimity of her highest sentiments. In the course of that morning she wrote in her note-book three sentences in Greek, Latin, and English, of which the last is as follows:—"If my fault deserved punishment, my youth, at least, and my imprudence, were worthy of excuse. God and posterity will show me favour."

She was executed within the Tower, either to withdraw her from the pitying eye of the people, or as a privilege due to the descendant of Henry VII. She declared on the scaffold that "her soul was as pure from trespass against Queen Mary as innocence was from injustice: I only consented to the thing I was forced into."

In substance the last allegation was true. The history of tyranny affords no example of a female of seventeen, by the command of a female, and a relation, put to death for acquiescence in the injunction of a father, sanctioned by the concurrence of all that the kingdom could boast of what was illustrious in nobility, or grave in law, or venerable in religion. The example is the more affecting, as it is that of a person who exhibited a matchless union of youth and beauty with genius, with learning, with virtue, with piety; whose affections were so warm, while her passions were so perfectly subdued. It was a death sufficient to honour and dishonour an age.

ASCENT OF THE PETER BOTTE MOUNTAIN.

IN the third volume (recently published) of the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, there appears an account of a very extraordinary exploit which has been lately performed by a party of our countrymen—the ascent of the mountain known by the name of Peter Botte, in the Mauritius. The island called the Mauritius and the Isle of Bourbon lie near to each other, off the east coast of Africa, having, however, the great island of Madagascar between them and that continent. They were first discovered in the sixteenth century by Pedro Mascarenhas, a Portuguese, from whom the group to which they belong is sometimes called that of the Mascarenhas. Its discoverer himself gave to the Mauritius the name of Ilha do Corno. The Portuguese, however, never formed a settlement here; and in 1598 the island was taken possession of by the Dutch Admiral Van Nek, who called it by the name by which it is now commonly known, after Maurice, Prince of Orange. The Dutch finding it of little use, although they had begun to colonise it in 1640, abandoned it altogether in 1712; and in 1721 the French, who had been already for some time in possession of the neighbouring Isle of Bourbon, began to colonise it. From them it received the name of the Isle of France, and they retained it till December 1810, when it was taken from them by the English. It still remains a British colony.

The Mauritius is extremely mountainous, and exhibits in every part of it the marks of volcanic action. Some of the mountains are between two and three thousand feet in height, and are covered with snow during a great part of the year. Among them are several that assume the most singular and fantastic shapes; but the most extraordinary in its appearance is that which bears the name of Peter Botte, from a person who is said by tradition to have climbed to its summit many years ago, and to have lost his life in coming down again. The attempt has been several

times made by our own countrymen since the island became a British possession, but always till now in vain. The exploit, however, has been at length accomplished in the course of the last year. The account of its successful performance is given in a letter from one of the parties in the enterprise, which was communicated to the Geographical Society by Mr Barrow. "From most points of view," says the writer, "the mountain seems to rise out of the range which runs nearly parallel to that part of the sea-coast which forms the bay of Port Louis (the capital, situated on the west side of the island); but on arriving at its base, you find that it is actually separated from the rest of the range by a ravine or cleft of a tremendous depth." The mountain appears from the account to be about eighteen hundred feet high.

Captain Lloyd, chief civil engineer, accompanied by Mr Dawkins, had made an attempt in 1831 to ascend the mountain, and had reached what is called the Neck, where they planted a ladder, which did not, however, reach half way up the perpendicular face of rock beyond. Still, Captain Lloyd was convinced that with proper preparation the feat might be accomplished. Accordingly, on the morning of the 7th September last, this gentleman, along with Lieutenant Phillpotts of the 29th regiment, Lieutenant Keppel, R. N., and Lieutenant Taylor, the writer of the letter, set out on the bold and perilous adventure. "All our preparations being made," says the narrative, "we started, and a more picturesque line of march I have seldom seen. Our van was composed of about fifteen or twenty sepoys in every variety of costume, together with a few negroes carrying our food, dry clothes, &c. Our path lay up a very steep ravine, formed by the rains in the wet season, which, having loosened all the stones, made it any thing but pleasant; those below were obliged to keep a bright look-out for tumbling rocks, and one of these missed Keppel and myself by a miracle."

Along this path, which was not a foot broad, they picked their way for about four hundred yards, the negroes keeping their footing firm under their loads, by catching hold as they proceeded of the shrubs above them. We must allow Lieutenant Taylor to continue the story in his own words:—

"On rising to the shoulder, a view burst upon us which defies my descriptive powers. We stood on a little narrow ledge or neck of land, about twenty yards in length. On the side which we mounted, we looked back into the deep wooded gorge we had passed up; while on the opposite side of the neck, which was between six and seven feet broad, the precipice went sheer down fifteen hundred feet to the plain. One extremity of the neck was equally precipitous, and the other was bounded by what to me was the most magnificent sight I ever saw. A narrow, knife-like edge of rock, broken here and there by precipitous faces, ran up in a conical form to about three hundred or three hundred and fifty feet above us; and on the very pinnacle old Peter Botte frowned in all his glory."

"After a short rest, we proceeded to work. The ladder had been left by Lloyd and Dawkins last year. It was about twelve feet high, about half-way up a face of perpendicular rock. The foot, which was spiked, rested on a ledge, with barely three inches on each side. A grapnell-line had been also left last year, but was not used. A negro of Lloyd's clambered from the top of the ladder by the cleft in the face of the rock, not trusting his weight to the old and rotten line. He carried a small cord round his middle; and it was fearful to see the cool steady way in which he climbed, where a single loose stone or false hold must have sent him down into the abyss; however, he fearlessly scrambled away, till at length we heard him halloo from under the neck, 'all right.' These negroes use their feet exactly like monkeys, grasping with them every projection almost as firmly as with their hands. The line carried up he made fast above, and up it we all four 'shinned' in succession. It was, joking apart, awful work. In several places the ridge ran to an edge not a foot broad; and I could, as I held on, half-sitting, half-kneeling across the ridge, have kicked my right shoe down to the plain on one side, and my left into the bottom of the ravine on the other. The only thing which surprised me was my own steadiness and freedom from all giddiness. I had been nervous in mounting the ravine in the morning; but gradually I got so excited and determined to succeed, that I could look down that dizzy height without the smallest sensation of swimming in the head; nevertheless, I held on uncommonly hard, and felt very well satisfied when I was safe under the neck. And a more extraordinary situation I never was in. The head, which is an enormous mass of rock, about thirty feet in height, overhangs its base many feet on every side. A ledge of tolerably level rock runs round three sides of the base, about six feet in width, bounded every where by the abrupt edge of the precipice, except in the spot where it is joined by the ridge up which we climbed. In one spot the head, though overhanging its base several feet, reaches only perpendicularly over the edge of the precipice; and, most fortunately, it was at the very spot where we mounted. Here it was that we reckoned on getting up; a communication being established with the shoulder by a double line of ropes, we proceeded to get up the necessary material—Lloyd's portable ladder, additional coils of rope, crowbars, &c. But now the question, and a puzzler too, was how to get the ladder up against the rock. Lloyd had prepared some iron arrows, with thongs, to fire over,

* The preceding part of this little narrative has been compiled from various sources; what follows is from Mackintosh, and does honour to the eloquence of that historian.

* Mackintosh's History of England. Lardner's Cabinet Library.

and, having got up a gun, he made a line fast round his body, which we all held on, and going over the edge of the precipice on the opposite side, he leant back against the line, and fired over the least projecting part: had the line broke, he would have fallen eighteen hundred feet. Twice this failed, and then he had recourse to a large stone with a lead-line, which swung diagonally, and seemed to be a feasible plan: several times he made beautiful heaves, but the provoking line would not catch, and away went the stone far down below; till at length Æolus, pleased, I suppose, with his perseverance, gave us a shift of wind for about a minute, and over went the stone, and was eagerly seized on the opposite side. Hurrah, my lads, 'steady's the word!' Three lengths of the ladder were put together on the ledge; a large line was attached to the one which was over the head, and carefully drawn up; and, finally, a two-inch rope, to the extremity of which we lashed the top of our ladder, then lowered it gently over the precipice till it hung perpendicularly, and was steadied by two negroes on the ridge below. 'All right, now hoist away!' and up went the ladder, till the foot came to the edge of our ledge, where it was lashed in firmly to the neck. We then hauled away on the guy to steady it, and made it fast; a line was passed over by the lead-line to hold on, and up went Lloyd, screeching and hallooing, and we all three scrambled after him. The union-jack and a boathook were passed up, and Old England's flag waved freely and gallantly on the redoubted Peter Botte. No sooner was it seen flying than the Undaunted frigate saluted in the harbour, and the guns of our saluting battery replied; for though our expedition had been kept secret till we started, it was made known the morning of our ascent, and all hands were on the look-out, as we afterwards learned. We then got a bottle of wine to the top of the rock, christened it 'King William's Peak,' and drank his Majesty's health hands round the Jack, and then 'Hip, hip, hip, hurrah!'

"I certainly never felt any thing like the excitement of that moment; even the negroes down on the shoulder took up our hurrahs, and we could hear far below the faint shouts of the astonished inhabitants of the plain. We were determined to do nothing by halves, and accordingly made preparations for sleeping under the neck, by hauling up blankets, pea-jackets, brandy, cigars, &c. Meanwhile, our dinner was preparing on the shoulder below; and about four P. M. we descended our ticklish path, to partake of the portable soup, preserved salmon, &c. Our party was now increased by Dawkins and his cousin, a lieutenant of the Talbot, to whom we had written, informing them of our hopes of success; but their heads would not allow them to mount to the head or neck. After dinner, as it was getting dark, I screwed up my nerves, and climbed up to our queer little nest at the top, followed by Tom Keppel and a negro, who carried some dry wood, and made a fire in a cleft under the rock. Lloyd and Phillpotts soon came up, and we began to arrange ourselves for the night, each taking a glass of brandy to begin with. I had on two pair of trousers, a shooting waistcoat, jacket, and a huge flushing jacket over that, a thick woollen sailor's cap, and two blankets; and each of us lighted a cigar as we seated ourselves to wait for the appointed hour of our signal of success. It was a glorious sight to look down from that giddy pinnacle over the whole island, lying so calm and beautiful in the moonlight, except where the broad black shadows of the other mountains intercepted the light. Here and there we could see a light twinkling in the plains, over the fire of some sugar manufactory; but not a sound of any sort reached us, except an occasional shout from the party down on the shoulder (we four being the only ones above). At length, in the direction of Port Louis, a bright flash was seen, and, after a long interval, the sullen boom of the evening gun. We then prepared our pre-arranged signal, and whiz went a rocket from our nest, lighting up for an instant the peaks of the hills below us, and then leaving us in darkness. We next burnt a blue-light, and nothing can be conceived more perfectly beautiful than the broad glare against the overhanging rock. The wild-looking group we made in our uncouth habiliments, and the narrow ledge on which we stood, were all quite distinctly shown; while many of the tropical birds, frightened at our vagaries, glanced by in the light, and then swooped away, screeching, into the gloom below; for the gorge on our left was dark as Erebus. We burnt another blue-light, and threw up two more rockets, when, our laboratory being exhausted, the patient-looking, insulted moon had it all her own way again. We now rolled ourselves up in our blankets, and, having lashed Phillpotts, who is a determined sleep-walker, to Keppel's leg, we tried to sleep; but it blew strong before the morning, and was very cold. We drank all our brandy, and kept tucking in the blankets the whole night without success. At day-break we rose, stiff, cold, and hungry; and I shall conclude briefly by saying, that after about four or five hours' hard work, we got a hole mined in the rock, and sunk the foot of our twelve-foot ladder deep in this, lashing a water-barrel, as a landmark, at the top; and, above all, a long staff, with the union-jack flying. We then, in turn, mounted to the top of the ladder, to take a last look at a view such as we might never see again; and, bidding adieu to the scene of our toil and triumph, descended the ladder to the neck,

and casting off the guys and hauling-lines, cut off all communication with the top."

We have only to add to this animated description, that, more fortunate than Peter Botte, Lieutenant Taylor and his friends effected their descent in perfect safety. The warm congratulations of their countrymen greeted them on their return from what our readers will probably agree with us in regarding as one of the most brilliant enterprises of this sort which have ever been recorded.—*From a Newspaper.*

THE KITTEN.

[BY JOANNA BAILLIE.]

Wanton drole, whose harmless play
Beguiles the rustic's closing day,
When drawn the evening fire about,
Sit aged crone, and thoughtless lout,
And child upon his three-foot stool,
Waiting till his supper cool;
And maid, whose cheek outblooms the rose,
As bright the blazing faggot glows,
Who, bending to the friendly light,
Plies her task with busy sleight;
Come, show thy tricks and sportive graces,
Thus circled round with merry faces.
Backward coil'd, and crouching low,
With glaring eyeballs watch thy foe,
The housewife's spindle whirling round,
Or thread, or straw, that on the ground
Its shadow throws, by urchin's eye
Held out to lure thy roving eye;
Then, onward stealing, fiercely spring
Upon the futile, faithless thing.
Now, wheeling round, with bootless skill,
Thy bo-peep tail provokes thee still,
As oft beyond thy curving side
Its jetty tip is seen to glide;
Till, from thy centre starting far,
Thou sidelong rear'st, with rump in air,
Erected stiff, and gait awry,
Like madam in her tantrums high;
Though ne'er a madam of them all
Whose silken kirtle sweeps the hall,
More varied trick and whim displays,
To catch the admiring stranger's gaze.

Doth power in measured verses dwell,
All thy vagaries wild to tell?
Ah no! the start, the jet, the bound,
The giddy scamper round and round,
With leap, and jerk, and high curvet,
And many a whirling somerset,
(Permitted be the modern muse
Expression technical to use)
These mock the dearest rhymer's skill,
But poor in art, though rich in will.

The fastest tumbler, stage-bedgight,
To thee is but a clumsy wight,
Who every limb and sinew strains
To do what costs thee little pains,
For which, I trow, the gaping crowd
Requites him oft with plaudits loud.
But, stopped the while thy wanton play,
Applauses, too, thy feats repay:
For then, beneath some urchin's hand,
With modest pride thou tak'st thy stand,
While many a stroke of fondness glides
Along thy back and tabby sides.
Dilated swells thy glossy fur,
And loudly sings thy busy pur;
As, timing well the equal sound,
Thy clutched feet beatst the ground,
And all their harmless claws disclose,
Like prickles of an early rose;
While softly from thy whiskered cheek
Thy half-closed eyes peer mild and meek.

But, not alone by cottage fire
Do rustics rude thy feats admire;
The learned sage whose thoughts explore
The widest range of human lore,
Or, with unfettered fancy, fly
Through airy heights of poetry,
Pausing, smiles with altered air,
To see thee climb his elbow chair,
Or, struggling on the mat below,
Hold warfare with his slipper'd toe.
The widow'd dame, or lonely maid,
Who in the still, but cheerless shade
Of home unsocial, spends her age,
And rarely turns a lettered page;
Upon her hearth for these lets fall
The rounded cork, or paper ball,
Nor chides thee on thy wicked watch
The ends of ravel'd skein to catch,
But lets thee have thy wayward will,
Perplexing oft her sober skill.
Even he, whose mind of gloomy bent,
In lonely tower or prison pent,
Reviews the coil of former days,
And loaths the world and all its ways;
What time the lamp's unsteady gleam
Doth rouse him from his moody dream,
Feels, as thou gambol'st round his seat,
His heart with pride less fiercely beat,
And smiles, a link in thee to find
That joins him still to living kind.

Whence hast thou then, thou witless puss,
The magic power to charm us thus?
Is it, that in thy glaring eye,
And rapid movements, we descry,
While we at ease, secure from ill,
The chimney corner snugly fill,
A lion, darting on the prey,
A tiger, at his ruthless play?
Or, is it, that in these we trace,
With all thy varied wanton grace,

An emblem view'd with kindred eye,
Of tricky, restless infancy?
Ah! many a lightly-sportive child,
Who hath, like thee, our wits beguill'd,
To dull and sober manhood grown,
With strange recoil our hearts disown.
Even so, poor Kit! must thou endure,
When thou becom'st a cat demure,
Full many a cuff and angry word,
Chid roughly from the tempting board
And yet, for that thou hast, I ween,
So oft our favoured playmate been,
Soft be the change which thou shalt prove,
When time hath spoiled thee of our love;
Still be thou deem'd, by housewife fat,
A comely, careful, mousing cat,
Whose dish is, for the public good,
Replenish'd oft with sav'ry food.

Nor, when thy span of life is past,
Be thou to pond or dunghill cast;
But gently borne on good man's spade,
Beneath the decent sod be laid,
And children show, with glist'ning eyes,
The place where poor old Pussy lies.

—*English Minstrelsy*, 2 vols. 1810.

LADY GREEN-GOWN.

An old woman of the ordinary rank, residing in the parish of Arbuthnot, Kincardineshire, who would, if now alive, be about an hundred and ten years of age, used to tell a strange story connected with the family of Viscount A——. The castle of A—— was long haunted by a spirit in the shape of a lady, who always wore a dress of green, and was therefore popularly denominated *Lady Green-Gown*. Every night, at twelve o'clock, this personage came tripping down the garret-stair, called for Lord A., who constantly attended, and ordering the servants to prepare his lordship's carriage, took an airing with him around the country, till, after having been away for several hours, the whole came back fatigued, and Lady Green-Gown again retired to her garret.

The real tale of Lady Green-Gown has been disclosed to us by an aged lady of better birth and education than the above. It appears that the Lady A., who lived about an hundred and thirty years ago, having behaved with some degree of levity at a masquerade, and given her lord occasion to suspect her fidelity, he saw fit to smother his chagrin on account of her ladyship's family, who were very powerful, and very *Highland*, and in consideration of certain estates, the inheritance of which depended upon her. He brought her down to Scotland, and mewed her up in one of the upper apartments of his mansion, where she lived for many years in a sort of honourable captivity. In order to preserve appearances, when he had any guests, the seat at the head of the table was constantly left vacant; and a servant went up with Lord A.'s compliments to Lady A., requesting that she would come down and preside. These requests were of course never obeyed, her ladyship always sending an apology, and affecting indisposition as a reason for dining in her own room. Her lord, who by no means wished to kill any more than to divorce her, took her out in his carriage every night, to give her air and exercise necessary for her health.

WILLS OF SHAKESPEARE, MILTON, AND NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

The last wills and testaments of the three greatest men of modern ages are tied up in one sheet of foolscap, and may be seen together at Doctors' Commons. In the will of the bard of Avon is an interlineation in his own handwriting—"I give unto my wife my brown beat bed with the furniture." It is proved by William Bryde, 22d July 1616. The will of the minstrel of Paradise is a nuncupative one, taken by his daughter, the great poet being blind. The will of Napoleon is signed in a bold style of handwriting; the codicil, on the contrary, written shortly before his death, exhibits the then weak state of his body.

A COURT ANECDOTE.

When a female member of the British royal family holds a levee, it is customary for her to kiss the ladies of the nobility, and no others. It happened that the lady of the Lord Justice-Clerk was on one occasion among the number of those presented to the late Princess Amelia, who, as is well known, was very deaf. "Stand by for my Lady Justice-Clerk," said the man in waiting. Meanwhile some meddling person whispered him that his announcement was incorrect, the lady being a commoner. By this time the kiss preliminary was about to be performed, when out bawled the man of office, through a speaking-trumpet, "Don't kiss her, madam—she's not a lady!"

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